

Missouri State Capitol CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1913-1917 ★ 2013-2017



Missouri State Capitol Commission

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The Missouri State Capitol is a monument to the citizens of the state. The current Capitol is the third to stand in Jefferson City. The first was built in 1826 when the seat of government moved to the city. Flames engulfed that building in 1837, but construction of a second and much larger Capitol had already started nearby. This structure was enlarged in the late 1880s, but it also burned on February 5, 1911.

A few months later, in a special election held on August 1, 1911, Missourians approved the issuance of \$3.5 million in state bonds for a new Capitol — the building we celebrate today. Here are some other important dates that mark this majestic building's centennial:

- May 6, 1913:** Groundbreaking
- Dec. 5, 1913:** Foundation finished
- Aug. 12, 1914:** Three women and eleven men lifted 280 feet in a boat to the dome, where they raised an American flag to celebrate completion of the steel work
- Nov. 7, 1914:** First of an estimated five-million bricks that would make up the building was laid
- June 24, 1915:** First cornerstone placed
- May 23, 1916:** Workmen put stone cap on dome
- July 1, 1916:** Original completion date for building
- Oct. 26, 1916:** First formal event in the Capitol
- Dec. 5, 1916:** Officials and guests formally place capstone on the dome
- Jan. 2, 1917:** First official business takes place when the Governor signs a copy of his message to the General Assembly
- March 16, 1917:** The Missouri legislature meets for the first time in the House and Senate chambers
- June 25, 1917:** Capitol dome illuminated for the first time
- Sept. 13, 1917:** Capitol Commission Board accepts master key and custody of the building
- Oct. 15, 1917:** State agencies begin to move into the new building

Construction delays and World War I caused the dedication of the new Capitol to be postponed until held on October 6, 1924.

Today, the building, which covers three acres and has 500,000 square feet of floor space, is literally a museum of public art, providing visitors with a rewarding glimpse of the cultural and natural legacy of our state. Please join us in celebrating its past, present and future.



Missouri State Capitol Commission
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